2/88 A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 21, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 2 totaled 14.2 billion ton-miles, up 12.8 percent from the 12.6 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Carloadings originated in the week ended January 2 totaled 300,844, up 12.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.7 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 12.3 percent in the East and 12.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 16 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Metallic ores increased by 7,580 cars (172.4 percent), grain showed a gain of 9,943 cars (66.2 percent), and metals and products increased by 2,262 cars (31.7 percent). Coal loadings were up by 4,110 cars (5.2 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the 52 weeks of 1987 totaled 5,155,737 trailers and/or containers, topping the previous record of 5,005,968 set in 1986. The number of trailers and/or containers carried in 1987 was 3.0 percent higher than the 1986 total.

Piggyback freight traffic during the holiday week ended December 26 totaled 84,546 trailers and/or containers, up 25.7 percent from the previous year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/02/88:

	Loadings in Week ended January 2, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,966	I	9,943	66.2	I	386	1.6
Other farm products	4,248	I	634	17.5	I	251	6.3
Metallic ores	11,976	I	7,580	172.4	D	1,792	13.0
Coal	83,495	I	4,110	5.2	I	802	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,756	I	481	6.6	I	1,231	7.9
Nonmetallic minerals	7,347	D	345	4.5	I	1,252	20.5
Grain mill products	9,470	I	37	0.4	I	698	8.0
Food and kindred products	7,968	I	420	5.6	I	215	2.8
Primary forest products	7,322	D	1,185	13.9	I	776	11.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,688	I	405	7.7	I	221	4.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,392	D	726	5.5	I	1,337	12.1
Chemicals and allied products	23,947	I	860	3.7	I	2,556	11.9
Petroleum products	4,052	I	149	3.8	I	395	10.8
Stone, clay and glass products	7,147	D	26	0.4	I	739	11.5
Coke	5,486	I	1,358	32.9	I	548	11.1
Metals and products	9,390	I	2,262	31.7	I	2,111	29.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	6,774	I	2,115	45.4	D	4,038	37.3
Waste and scrap materials	5,062	I	140	2.8	D	970	16.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,540	I	3	0.2	D	262	14.5
All other carloads	54,818	I	5,436	11.0	I	1,432	2.7
Total Cars Loaded	300,844	I	33,651	12.6	I	7,888	2.7
Corresponding week of 1987	267,193						

	1988	1987	% Change
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 2	14.2	12.6	I 12.8

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1987 and 1986:

	1987	1986		Incr./Decr. vs. 1987 vs. 1986	
	Cars	Cars		Cars	Percent
Grain	1,505,206	1,268,393	I	236,813	18.7
Other farm products	203,375	192,737	I	10,638	5.5
Metallic ores	846,153	797,839	I	48,314	6.1
Coal	5,810,862	5,725,484	I	85,378	1.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	745,962	678,161	I	67,801	10.0
Nonmetallic minerals	489,677	475,496	I	14,181	3.0
Grain mill products	565,386	546,376	I	19,010	3.5
Food and kindred products	567,210	563,040	I	4,170	0.7
Primary forest products	543,681	535,037	I	8,644	1.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	418,740	397,019	I	21,721	5.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	646,724	664,814	D	18,090	2.7
Chemicals and allied products	1,369,714	1,272,994	I	96,720	7.6
Petroleum products	249,500	240,657	I	8,843	3.7
Stone, clay and glass products	539,234	510,479	I	28,755	5.6
Coke	260,174	218,357	I	41,817	19.2
Metals and products	472,378	414,617	I	57,761	13.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	980,383	1,037,631	D	57,248	5.5
Waste and scrap materials	451,843	412,816	I	39,027	9.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	142,842	197,856	D	55,014	27.8
All other carloads	4,002,514	3,634,109	I	368,405	10.1
Total Cars Loaded	20,811,558	19,783,912	I	1,027,646	5.2

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

	1987	1986	% Change
First quarter	226.4	218.6	I 3.6
Second quarter	230.6	215.7	I 6.9
Third quarter	242.3	218.3	I 11.0
Fourth quarter	242.1	221.9	I 9.1
Year	941.3	874.5	I 7.6